Rec'd Nov 2d 1867
Ans same day

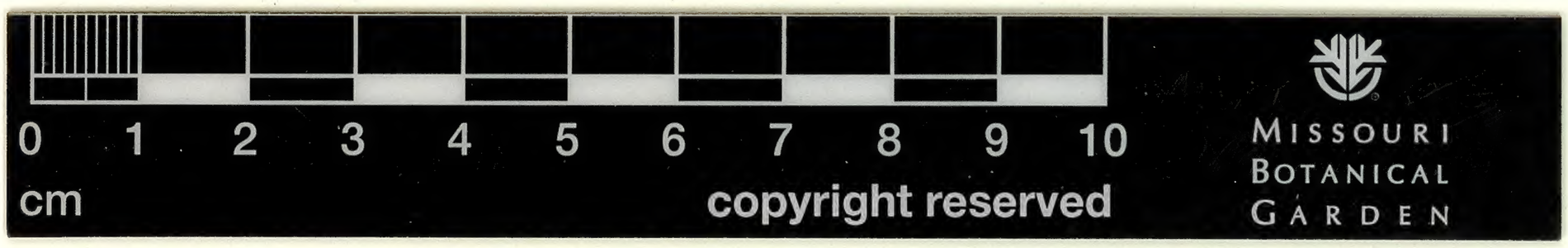
Long Point. Texas. 20. Oct. 1867.

George Engelmann
St. Louis. Mo.

Dear Sir.

Your familiar and quite friend-ly letter came to my table day before yesterday. 12 days enroute. I made an excursion of observation last spring, which was extended from 12th March to 9th. June. I went up the Brazos until I was as high up the Country as Corryell County, thence I crossed across through the mountains to Corryell County, and continuing S.W. edging along as near the Indian depridations as I dare, explored 19 Counties. I was making geological and Entomologic collections, and all the botany that I found that was rare to me, I collected and after getting home, sent it to our friend Durand. You ask if I have studied the grasses of Texas. I may safely, that I have, first and last, collected every species of indigenous grass belonging to Texas, and sent them to Durand. I do not think that there is a single species left. On the Guadaloupe river I found a good many plants that do not flourish east of the Colorado; which has, previously, to last Spring Constituted my botanic range in Texas.

I was not apprised of your speciality in botany, until I received your kind letter of 6th inst. And had I not another extensive exploring trip on hand, I could aid you by furnishing every species of that genus belonging to Texas Had I known it last Spring I could have collected most of them. I saw them and remarked it to the young men who accompanied me. But I am going to Turspan Valley in Mexico, and shall not be able to collect Juncus or any other botany in Texas for you.



P.S. I saw Buckley at Austin last week — he was well but the errands to our country had put him out of office and he was filling up the time writing and arranging his numerous notes which had been heretofore neglected for my excursion last Spring. I had Buckley with me a month, and he intended to make the whole trip with me, but his wife wrote him a letter which found him at a little town we were passing through, informing him that it was necessary for him to come home. He is a very industrious observing man.

G. L.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Rec'd Nov 2d 1867

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In my Spring excursion, I visited Lindheimer at his office in New Braunfels, but he was so much engaged at the time, getting his Praser ready for distribution, and I being in hast that day, I had but few words with him. I looked upon him as an intellectual, industrious good man, and was sorry that I could not have an opperturnity of visiting him in his hours of leisure.

I hope to find in Texpan a rich field of new subjects to engage my mind pleasantly during the close of the evening of my protracted existance. I am 75 years of age have spent life agreeably, and think I shall be able to conclude my term as favorably as I have enjoyed it to this day.

I have often seen your name scattered along the pages of ~~the pages of~~ the reports ~~of~~ the academies and societies of Natural history; and now, Since I have had an opperturnity to study your Autograph, I should be proud to see you. But that perhaps, can never be, as I am about to widen the distance between us. However, should I find any rare things in your favorite pet plants, I can very convenientlly forward them from Texpan. I shall go over land to that Country and shall set out on the journey between the first icy Norther and Christmas. You will have time to write to me before I set out, which I hope you may find time and inclination to do. I think, Counting from the dates of the articles, bearing your name, which I have noticed in various works on botany, that you too are becoming somewhat ancient - May you long continue.

Most Respectfully Thine
Gideon Lincecum

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Rec'd Dec 6th

Long Point. Texas. 25. Nov. 1865.

Dr. George Engelman.

St. Louis. Mo.

My Dear Sir:

Your very kind favor of 2nd inst. came several days ago, but I was at the time, so completely overwhelmed with communications from various portions of the state on the subject of going to Tuxpan, that until the present moment, I could not consider your kind letter. I had, 5 or 6 weeks ago, published a notice in one of the Galveston papers, that I was going the overland route to Tuxpan, and that if any families or individuals intended going to that country, I should be glad to join Company with them, and that it would oblige me very much by writing to me. The result was, that just before your letter reached me, letters were pouring in from five or six companies of emigrants who are nearly ready to set out, and I have been writing and planning to effect a junction of all these companies at various points on the road, between here and Matamoras 400 miles distant. It will give us strength, and will deter the bands of robbers that are occasionally met with in Mexico, for the companies to get together before they reach the Rio Grande.

I have labored through all that, and am now seated, with a clear tract ahead, and shall, as far as I am capable, make satisfactory answers to the questions contained in your very acceptable communication.

My fondness for nature and natural things, originated, as I suppose, from the fact, that I was raised nearly to manhood, in the wild forests, with the Muscogee Indians. Now society, villianous, civilized Society, has gradually thickened around me, until there is no little, sacred, unstramped nook to which I might retire and

We have a small black frost grape growing in wet lands here, but it is not offensive in its tast, though quite sour; no aromatic taste that I can perceive. It is found around the borders of ponds ~~and~~ and lakes ~~on~~ the wet almost miry grounds. The vines are small, blak and brittle, and do not ascend tall trees.

We have another frost grape here, found on the bottom lands and on the banks of small creeks, having exceeding long, lax clusters. The vine is a great runner, often spreading over and tying the tops of three or four or more tall trees together, so that they must all fall together, or more. The vines, the main trunk - is sometimes 8 inches in diameter, and the treetops upon which it has spread its branches, are perfectly black and bending with the weight of the grapes. Turkies are very fond of these and they are many times found gathering the grapes in the tops of these loaded trees. I sent specimens of this species of grape to Durand, and he called it Vitis Cordifolium The leaf is very large and sure enough heart shaped. I have produced excellent wine from these grapes and the muscatine - the black variety of the scuppernong - in the proportion of four bushels of the former to one bush-el of the latter. I found the grapes and made the wine at columbus Mississippi. I have seen the same grape in S. Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Missis-sippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, also in Tennessee There is one species of mountain grape that may be culti vated profitably. The most palatable grape is a poor grower.

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Long Point 25 Nov 1901

hide myself from the unholy gaze of intermeddling civilization
Hence I go to the wilds of the mountain forests of Texas.

My youngest daughter will go with me to that country of paints
birds, rich flowers and gaudy butterflies. She is fond of botan-
-ny and will no doubt be delighted with the untrodden
wilds and maiden forests to be found there.

I sent Mr. Durand over 600 specimens of Texan botany.
600 of which was collected by my daughter. She collected
the grasses and herbaceous plants, and I, the trees, Vines &
shrubs. Of these, I found 173 only; in the Section lying betwixt
(and three were found)
the Colorado and Brazos rivers, and, extending from the
gulf Coast to the spurs of the rocky mountains. My daughter
gathered her specimens from the same range.

The grape specimens sent you by Mr. Durand, were collect-
ed during my excursion last Spring, when they had no fruit.
and it is 100 miles from Long Point, to where the mountain
or torrent grapes are found. I left word with a dozen peo-
ple who reside in that region, to send me a few of the
berries as soon as they were fully ripe; but you are aware
of what a poor dependence that is. It is 160 miles to where
Lindheimer resides, and I probably shall not meet with
him again. I would willingly aid you with your work on vitis,
were I not going to a far off country.

I do not think, and I reside about the center of the
Mustang grape region, that I ever saw a Mustang grape.
the berry,— an inch in diameter. They are however,
quite large, and the vines are heavy fruited. I have
myself, from a vine 6 years old, that had sprung up
from a root, from which some large vines had been cut,
collected 54 gallons of strained grape juice. I have an 8

I made considerable effort to procure the fruit of mountain grapes, by writing to Buckley, and to my son-in-law, Mr. George J. Durham. It was all a failure, I did not receive any.

The specimens of the Wolffia which you sent me had got ground into powder somehow, and I could make nothing of it. The pines and Cacti will be carefully examined and I will very probably be able to send Specimens of many rare things. I have letters from several very intelligent gentlemen of the Texpan Valley, and they assure me of the great variety of plants there, and that they all differ from any thing East of the Rio Grand I shall see.

I contemplate setting out on the journey immediately after we have some ice. It keeps quite warm here yet, and there are cases of yellow fever in ten miles of me. I saw, to day, thousands of grass hoppers eating the green okra and Mulbery leaves.

I shall let you know where I stick down my Jacob staff, and you must write to me.

I am acquainted with some of the members of the St. Louis acad. nat. sciences, but I am about them, very much like I am about, Dr. H.C. Wood jr. of the Acad. Nat Sciences, Philadelphia; have but little to do with them. — and now as I have said all I can think of in answer to your good letter I will close by wishing you a good night..

Most Respectfully

Gideon Lincecum

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 Long Point 25 Nov 1867

years old vine in my yard that produced on the 8th Summer four gallons of clean juice. It came up from the seed and grew among the thick bushes, without pruning. The first was not pruned, and run over various bushes and a dead cedar top. The Mustang grape vine, leave or fruit bears no resemblance to the Scuppernong; nor does it have a bloom. The sand Postoak grape is, on an average, 5/8 of an inch in diameter, has no bloom, but an extraordinary fine odor. I sent Mr. Durand, some seeds and some dried berries of the running Post oak grape, but the Lincecum grape did not bear fruit — Towards the latter part of last may, in a very poor Sandy country, in the upper edge of Burleson County, I saw a greater quantity of the bush, or sand Postoak grape, in the course of five or six miles, than I had ever seen, altogether before. They were nearly full grown, and so tender that in thrusting a pin through them the seed could not be felt. We gathered about a gallon of them, and placing them in the pan at our campfire in about a gill of bacon grease, and perhaps a pint of Sorghum Syrup. They were stewed and stirred until the whole of it was reduced to a pretty even pulpy mass. We ate it with our corn bread and roasted wild turkey. & all — there were 3 young men with me — declared it to be the most agreeably flavored mess, they had ever met with anywhere. They were too far off from me and I could not procure any of them at Maturity, for I was wallowing and fighting with yellow fever. They mature in August. The running species are a little later. There are two varieties of the running kind, both have large berries, one very good the other contains an acrid juice that skins the mouth & lips

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